

SCOTT COUNTY

NOXIOUS WEED

PROGRAM



WHAT ARE NOXIOUS WEEDS?

Noxious weeds are usually non-native plants that have been introduced accidentally or as ornamentals in peoples' gardens. Some are poisonous to humans and livestock and most grow rapidly and are extremely difficult to control. They can reduce crop yields, displace desirable plant species, destroy beneficial native habitat, damage recreational opportunities, clog waterways, and diminish land values.

HOW IS A PLANT DESIGNATED AS A NOXIOUS WEED?

The commissioner shall appoint a committee composed of ten members and ten alternate members to evaluate species for invasiveness, difficulty of control, cost of control, benefits, and amount of injury caused by them. For each species evaluated, the committee shall recommend to the commissioner on which noxious weed list or lists, if any, the species should be placed. Species currently designated as prohibited or restricted noxious weeds must be re-evaluated every five years for a recommendation on whether or not they need to remain on the noxious weed lists.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE FOR THE SCOTT COUNTY NOXIOUS WEED PROGRAM?

It is the policy of the legislature that residents of the state be protected from the injurious effects of noxious weeds on public health, the environment, public roads, crops, livestock, and other property.

The Scott County Noxious Weed Program focuses on education, prevention, technical assistance and control of noxious weeds through voluntary compliance. Preventing the spread of weeds is more effective and less costly than eradication.

WHAT SERVICES ARE PROVIDED BY THE NOXIOUS WEED PROGRAM?

The program:

- Provides landowners with sufficient education, assistance and incentives to continue to achieve high rates of weed control and voluntary compliance with the state weed law.
- Surveys and maps all noxious weed infestations countywide to identify the full extent of the weed problem and to detect infestations at an earlier and more preventive stage.
- Provides educational services to the public through informational workshops and publications.
- Conducts research on the best methods for weed control and eradication in Scott County.
- Provides technical assistance to the public on weed identification, control and eradication.
- Facilitates control and weed management efforts by working with volunteer and landowner group.

Impacts of noxious weeds and invasive plants

According to Minnesota Rules and Statutes, noxious weeds are plants that are injurious to public health, the environment, public roads, crops, livestock, and other property. The noxious and invasive plants cause economic losses to agriculture, natural resource management agencies, and road maintenance departments.

WHO ARE AUTHORIZED AGENTS WHO ADMINISTER AND ENFORCE THE MINNESOTA WEED LAWS?

<u>County agricultural inspectors.</u> The county board shall appoint one or more county agricultural inspectors that meet the qualifications prescribed by rule. The appointment must be for a period of time which is sufficient to accomplish the duties assigned to this position. A notice of the appointment must be delivered to the commissioner within ten days of the appointment and it must establish the initial number of hours to be worked annually.

<u>Local weed inspectors.</u> The supervisors of each town board and the mayor of each city shall act as local weed inspectors within their respective municipalities.

Assistant weed inspectors. A municipality may appoint one or more assistants to act on behalf of the appointing authority as a weed inspector for the municipality. The appointed assistant or assistants have the power, authority, and responsibility of the town board members or the city mayor in the capacity of weed inspector.

TRANSPORTATION OF NOXIOUS WEED PROPAGATING PARTS IN INFESTED MATERIAL OR EQUIPMENT

<u>Permits.</u> If a person wants to transport along a public highway materials or equipment containing the propagating parts of weeds designated as noxious or restricted by the commissioner, the person must secure a written permit for transportation of the material or equipment from a local weed inspector or county agricultural inspector. If the noxious or restricted weed propagating parts are removed from materials and equipment or devitalized before being transported, a permit is not needed. See Weed Law for conditions of permit issuance.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CONTROLLING NOXIOUS WEEDS ON MY PROPERTY?

YOU ARE REQUIRED TO ERADICATE NOXIOUS WEEDS ON YOUR PROPERTY!

A general notice (see below) is published on or before May 15th each year notifying all persons in Scott County, MN, that they shall control or eradicate all noxious weeds on land they own, occupy or are required to maintain.

GENERAL NOTICE TO CONTROL NOXIOUS WEEDS YOU ARE REQUIRED TO ERADICATE NOXIOUS WEEDS ON YOUR PROPERTY!

Notice is hereby given this 15th day of April, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 18.83 Subd. 1 (1992), that all persons in Scott County, Minnesota, shall control or eradicate all noxious weeds on land they own, occupy or are required to maintain. Control or eradication may be accomplished by any lawful method, but the methods may need to be repeated in order to prevent the spread of viable noxious weed seeds and other propagating parts to other lands. Failure to comply with the General Notice may mean that an individual notice will be issued. An individual notice may be appealed within two working days of receipt to the appeal committee in the county where the land is located. Failure to comply with the individual notice will mean that the inspector having jurisdiction may either hire the work done or seek a misdemeanor charge against the person(s) who failed to comply. If the work is hired done by the inspector, the cost can be placed as a tax upon the land and collected as other real estate taxes are collected. You may obtain a list of the plants that are noxious and a list of the members of the appeal committee from your County Agricultural Inspector or local weed inspector. The local weed inspectors are township supervisors, and city mayors or their appointed assistants.

BY ORDER OF THE TOWNSHIP AND CITY WEED INSPECTORS

HOW IS WEED CONTROL ENFORCED

Once an infestation is identified, the landowner and/or occupant is given recommendations on ways to control or eradicate the weed problem. The majority of weed infestations are controlled **voluntarily** by landowners and/or occupants.

HOW IS WEED CONTROL ENFORCED, CONT.

If voluntary control of noxious weeds is not achieved, the local weed inspector or county agricultural inspector may have an Individual Notice served upon persons not willing to control noxious weeds. Those persons not willing to comply with the Individual Notice, which states how the noxious weeds are to be controlled or eradicated, are subject to fines. In addition, inspectors can have the noxious weeds controlled or eradicated and bill such persons for that expense. Please see Weed Law for further information.

ARE WEED INSPECTORS ALLOWED TO ENTER MY PROPERTY WITHOUT PERMISSION?

YES, although inspectors <u>rarely</u> enter private property without the owner's permission. Minnesota Statutes, Section 18.79, Subd. 3, **Entry upon land**, states that to administer and enforce noxious weed laws, the commissioner, authorized agents of the commissioner, county agricultural inspectors, and local weed inspectors may enter upon land without consent of the owner and without being subject to an action for trespass or any damages.

NOXIOUS WEED CLASSIFICATIONS

There are three different lists that weeds could get classified as:

- Prohibited The plants listed in this part are prohibited noxious weeds because they are injurious to public health, the environment, public roads, crops, livestock, and other property.
- 2) Restricted The plants listed in this part are restricted noxious weeds whose only feasible means of control is to prohibit the importation, sale, and transportation of them or their propagating parts in the state.
- 3) Secondary The plants listed in this part are not usually found in the majority of counties but may be problems for a few, therefore, they may be added to a county's prohibited or restricted list by city or township petition.

FIELD BINDWEED

(Convolvulus arvensis)



Norman E. Rees, USDA ARS, Image 0021002, www.forestryimages.org, 6-21-02

FAMILY: Morningglory Family

ORIGIN: Europe

LIFE SPAN: Perennial

FLOWERS: May - September

DESCRIPTION:

It reproduces by seeds and horizontal roots. The stems are smooth, slender, slightly angled, 1 to 4 feet long, and spread thickly over the ground or wind around erect plants or other objects. The leaves are alternate, 1 to 2 inches long, with great variation in shape. They are somewhat arrow-shaped with spreading, pointed, or blunt lobes at the base. The flowers are bell or trumpet-shaped, white, pink, or variegated, and about ¾ to 1 inch broad.

It is one of the most competitive perennial weeds. A two or three-year food supply is stored in the extensive underground root system. This makes it hard to kill by cultivation because roots will live as long as their food reserve lasts. Seeds can also stay viable in the soil for up to 40 years.

WHY IT'S NOXIOUS: Invades established plant communities as well as farm fields and

roadsides.

CONTROL: Mechanical, Chemical

HEMP (Marijuana)

(Cannabis sativa)



Richard Bauer, Wisconsin State Herbarium

FAMILY: Hemp

ORIGIN: Asia

LIFE SPAN: Annual

FLOWERS: July - October

DESCRIPTION: It reproduces by seed. The seeds are oval, mottled brown, about 1/8 inch long. It grows 3 to 14 feet high with rough hairy stems. The leaves are palmately compound with 5 to 9 hairy leaflets that have notched or uniformly jagged edges. Plants are usually bushy unless crowded. Hairs on the upper part of the plant exude a characteristic odor. The flowers consist of two kinds – male and female flowers on separate plants. Neither flower has any petals. Both flowers are borne from the axils of the upper leaves. The male plants turn yellow and die after shedding pollen while female plants remain green until frost.

WHY IT'S NOXIOUS: Can be an intoxicant and is aggressive.

CONTROL: Mechanical, Chemical

PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE

(Lythrum salicaria)



Eric Coombs, Oregan Department of Agriculture, Image 0022075, www.forestryimages.org, 6-21-02

FAMILY: Loosestrife Family

ORIGIN: Europe

LIFE SPAN: Perennial

FLOWERS: July - September

DESCRIPTION: The erect, square stem can be smooth to hairy, multi-branched and 1½ to 8 feet tall. The leaves are opposite or whorled, linear shaped, and have smooth edges, hairy, and attached directly to the stem. The magenta-colored flowers, which have 5 to 7 petals, are in dense terminal spikes at the top of the plant.

WHY IT'S NOXIOUS: Invading almost any shallow water in the state. Can out-compete almost any other plants. Each plant can produce 120,000 to 2.7 million seeds in a single growing season.

CONTROL: Mechanical, Chemical, Biological

GARLIC MUSTARD

(Alliaria petiolata)



FAMILY: Mustard Family

ORIGIN: Europe

LIFE SPAN: Biennial

Short lived perennial

FLOWERS: May to June

Victoria Nuzzo, Natural Area Consultants, Image 0002044, www.forestryimages.org, 6-21-02

DESCRIPTION:

It is named for the garlic odor of its leaves when crushed. Garlic mustard forms low rosettes and bears a strong resemblance to violets in its first year. It is distinguished from violets by a slender white taproot with an "S" shaped crook just below the stem. Second year plants send up 2 to 3 foot flower stalks with terminal flower clusters. Flowers are white with four petals about a quarter of an inch long and bloom in spring.

WHY IT'S NOXIOUS:

It is a highly invasive exotic plant, out-competing native plants and effectively erasing plant diversity in the herb strata. A single plant can self-pollinate and take over a site in less than a decade.

CONTROL: Mechanical, Chemical, Burning

POISON IVY

(Toxicodendron)



FAMILY: Cashew Family

ORIGIN: Native

LIFE SPAN: Perennial

FLOWERS: May - July

DESCRIPTION: The leaves are smooth, shiny or waxlike in appearance and divided

into 3 parts (leaflets). Each leaflet is from 1 to 4 inches long. The berries are small, white, hard, round and arranged in clusters. The plant changes from a bright green in summertime to a reddish-yellow

in late summer or fall.

WHY IT'S NOXIOUS: It is an invasive weed that sometimes causes sever rash in susceptible

people. DO NOT TOUCH!!!

CONTROL: Chemical

LEAFY SPURGE

(Euphorba esula)



Norman E. Rees, USDA ARS, Image 0025061, www.forestryimages.com, 6-21-02

Spurge Family FAMILY:

ORIGIN: Europe

LIFE SPAN: Perennial

FLOWERS: Late spring/early

summer and again in fall

DESCRIPTION:

The roots can extend as deep as 20 feet and are extremely wide spreading. The shoots grow erect, 1 to 3 feet high, are pale green and unbranched except for flower clusters. Leaves are alternate, narrowly linear with smooth margins, about ¼ inch wide, and 1 to 4 inches long. The small yellow-green flowers are enclosed by a pair of yellowish-green, heart-shaped bracts. The bracts have the appearance of flowers. The pods are three-seeded. The plant, including the root, has a milky latex that is damaging to eyes and sensitive skin.

WHY IT'S NOXIOUS:

Being a highly invasive weed, crowding out almost anything in its way, and being almost impossible to kill. It also causes scours and weakness in cattle and may kill them.

CONTROL: Biological, Grazing, Mechanical, Chemical

PERENNIAL SOWTHISTLE

(Sonchus arvensis)



Photo from: USDA-APHIS-PPQ

FAMILY: Asteraceae Family

ORIGIN: Europe

LIFE SPAN: Perennial

FLOWERS: July - October

DESCRIPTION: All plant parts are filled with a bitter, milky juice. The plant is 2 to 4 feet tall. The stem is erect, stout, smooth, and is unbranched except at the top. The leaves are alternate and light green. The lower leaves are 6 inches to 1 foot long, with deeply cut, backwardspointed side lobes. The upper leaves are slightly toothed. The flowers look like dandelion flowers. Seeds are brown, ridges, and wrinkled with a tuft of fine white hairs.

WHY IT'S NOXIOUS: Invading anywhere a seed can germinate. Will out-compete almost anything in its path.

BULL THISTLE

(Cirsium vulgar [savi] Tenore)



Loke T. Kok, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Image 0580002, www.forestryimages.org, 6-21-02

FAMILY: Asteraceae Family

ORIGIN: Eurasia

LIFE SPAN: Biennial

FLOWERS: July - September

DESCRIPTION: It is biennial reproducing by seed. The first year it produces a large taproot and a rosette of flat leaves. The second year, it produces an upright stalk, blooms, produces seed and then dies. The stems are stout and spiny with margins extending down stems. The leaves are spiny, alternate, 3 to 6 inches long, dark green on the upper surface and pale green underneath. The flowers are deep purple and measure about 1½ to 3 inches across.

WHY IT'S NOXIOUS: Highly invasive in all soils, especially on roadsides and pastures.

CONTROL: Limited Biological, Chemical, and Mechanical

(Bull Thistle will not withstand cultivation.)

CANADA THISTLE

(Cirsium arvense)



Norman E. Rees, USDA ARS, Image 0024019, www.forestryimages.org, 6-21-02

FAMILY: Asteraceae Family

ORIGIN: Europe

LIFE SPAN: Perennial

FLOWERS: June - August

DESCRIPTION: The erect stem is hollow, smooth and slightly hairy, 1 to 5 feet tall, simple, and branched at the top. The leaves are set close on the stem, slightly clasping, and dark green. Leaf shape varies widely from oblong to lance-shaped. Sharp spines are numerous on the outer edges of the leaves and on the branches and main stem of the plant. The flowers are small and compact, about ¾ inch or less in diameter, and light pink to rose-purple in color, occasionally white. The seeds are oblong, flattened, dark brown, and approximately 1/8 inch long.

WHY IT'S NOXIOUS: Invades almost every place in Minnesota. Can grow in wet or dry

soil, especially on roadsides and pastures.

CONTROL: Chemical, Mechanical, Limited Biological

MUSK THISTLE

(Carduus nutaans)



Loke T. Kok, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Image 05800016, www.forestryimages.org, 6-21-02

FAMILY: Asteraceae Family

ORIGIN: Europe

LIFE SPAN: Biennial

FLOWERS: June until frost

DESCRIPTION: The first year's growth is a large, compact rosette from a large, fleshy, corky taproot. The second year stem is erect, spiny, 2 to 6 feet tall and branched at the top. The leaves are alternate, deeply cut or lobed, but not as deep as plumeless thistle with five points per lobe, very spiny, 3 to 6 inches long and extend (clasp) down the stem. The waxy leaves are dark green with a light green midrib and mostly white margins. The large and showy flowers are terminal, flat, nodding, 1 ½ to 2 ½ inches broad, purple, rarely white, and surrounded by numerous, lance-shaped, spine-tipped bracts. Add stem below flower lacks spines. Seeds are straw-colored and oblong.

WHY IT'S NOXIOUS: Invades roadsides, pastures, and waste places in Minnesota.

CONTROL: Limited Biological, Mechanical, and Chemical

PLUMELESS THISTLE

(Carduus acanthoides)



Gary L. Piper, Washington State University, Image 0026037, www.forestryimages.org, 6-21-02

FAMILY: Asteraceae Family

ORIGIN: Europe

LIFE SPAN: Biennial

FLOWERS: June until frost

DESCRIPTION: This plant can be distinguished from musk thistle by its smaller flowers – ½ to 1 inch in diameter. The leaves of plumeless thistle lack the prominent white margin present on musk thistle leaves. The plant may grow to a height of 5 feet or more. Spines to base of flower. Flowers are reddish-purple and are either solitary or clustered. Taproots are large and fleshy. The plumes attached to the seed are not branched – hence the name plumeless. This plumeless feature distinguishes this thistle from the other thistle types.

WHY IT'S NOXIOUS: Plumeless thistle is an extremely prolific seed producer. It invades roadsides, pastures, and waste places in Minnesota.

CONTROL: Limited Biological, Mechanical, and Chemical

RESTRICTED

COMMON BUCKTHORN (Rhamnus cathartica [L.]) GLOSSY BUCKTHORN (Rhamnus frangula [L.])



Common Buckthorn



Glossy Buckthorn

DESCRIPTION: Both Common and Glossy Buckthorns are tall shrubs or small trees, 20-25 feet in height and up to 10" in diameter. Most often they grow in a large shrub form, having a few or many stems from base. Their bark is gray to brown with prominent, often elongate, lighter-colored lenticels. The Buckthorns share a very distinctive winter appearance having naked, hairy terminal buds and gracefully curving or arched twigs with closely spaced, prominent leaf scars giving the twigs a warty or bumpy silhouette. Both species of Buckthorn are distinctive enough that they will be easy to identify once you have learned their characteristics.

Common Buckthorn has dull green, orate-elliptic leaves, which are smooth on both surfaces and have minute teeth on the margins. They vary from rounded to pointed on the top. Twigs of common Buckthorn often end with thorns. Glossy Buckthorn has thin, glossy, orate or

elliptic leaves. The upper leaf surface is shiny; the lower surface can be hairy or smooth and their margins are not toothed.

Both get clusters of small fruit. Common Buckthorn has black fruit, which retains into the winter; also contains a laxative; seeds spread by birds and other animals. Glossy Buckthorn has red fruit, which turns black when ripe and falls to the ground.

WHY ITS RESTRICTED: Buckthorn is a very prolific seed producer and is easily spread by birds. It will grow in most any type of soil and/or wet areas. It does adapt to shaded areas and will overtake the under story of wooded areas.

CONTROL: Biological (experimental stages only), Mechanical, Chemical

WEEDS PROHIBITED BY PETITION

1505.750 ADDING TO NOXIOUS WEED LIST; COUNTY NOXIOUS WEED PETITION

The Minnesota commissioner of agriculture may without further hearing, take a weed or weeds from the secondary noxious weed list and add it to the prohibited or restricted noxious weed list on a county basis if:

- A. a majority of the town boards and city mayors in a county petition the commissioner of agriculture, on forms provided by the department, to add a weed or weeds to the county prohibited or restricted noxious weed list on the grounds that the weed or weeds are injurious to public health, the environment, public roads, crops, livestock or other property;
- B. the petition is approved by that county's board of county commissioners; and
- C. the commissioner of agriculture deems the weed or weeds to be injurious to public health, the environment, public roads, crops, livestock, or other property.

Jimson Weed

(Datura Stramonium L.)



FAMILY: Nightshade Family

ORIGIN: North America

LIFE SPAN: Annual

FLOWERS: July – September

DESCRIPTION: It reproduces by seed. The seed is nearly kidney-shaped (3-4 mm long) flattened, black to dark brown, surface irregular or pitted. Leaves-Alternate: blades simple, ovate (7-25 cm long, 3-20 cm wide). Tip gradually pointed, margins unevenly sinuate-denate, surfaces smooth and hairless, upper surface dark green. Stems: Erect, branching above hairless, green to purplish. Flower white to pinkish or violet, corolla funnel – shaped.

WHY IT'S NOXIOUS: Jimsonweed is highly poisonous containing high levels of solanaceous alkaloids. All types of livestock have been lost by consumption of live plants, hay or silage. Ingestion of only 4 grams of seeds or leaf material is a fatal dose for a child. Nectar from flower is poisonous.

Wild Sunflower

(Helian thus annuus L.)



FAMILY: Sunflower

ORIGIN: Native

LIFE SPAN: Annual

FLOWERS: July - September

DESCRIPTION: It reproduces by seed. Seeds are enclosed in the achene small. Leaves-Alternate: (sometimes opposite below); blades simple, heart-shaped below, ovate to lanceolate above (4-40 cm long, 1.5-35 cm wide); margins toothed to nearly entire; surfaces scabrous; on long petioles. Stems erect, coarse, branched above.

WHY IT'S NOXIOUS: Common sunflower can accumulate levels of nitrates which are toxic to livestock.

Velvet Leaf (Abutilon Theophrasti Medic)



FAMILY: Mallow

ORIGIN: India

LIFE SPAN Annual

FLOWERS: July - October



DESCRIPTION: It reproduces by seed. Stems erect, sparingly branched, rather thick; smooth with short, velvety pubescence. The leaves alternate; blades simple, nearly orbicular to ovate (4-17 cm long, up to 20 cm wide), tip gradually pointed, round to heart-shaped at the base; margins with shallow rounded or with sharp, spreading teeth, sometimes only slightly toothed; surfaces velvety pubescent. Seed rounded and triangular (3-4 mm long), notched, flattened, grayish-brown to black. Fruit cupshaped; carpels (1.5-3 cm in diameter) pubescent; carpel 5-15 seeded. Flower-Orangish-yellow to yellow petals, parted nearly to base, often separating at or above the middle; bracts subtending peduncles up to 1 cm long.

WHY IT'S NOXIOUS: Velvet leaf grown most rapidly in the warmest part of the summer, usually after cultivation. It is considered to be one of the most serous row crop weeds.

SECONDARY NOXIOUS WEEDS

The weeds on this list may be added to a county prohibited or restricted list by following the petition process.

Alyssum, hoary

*Artichoke, Jerusalem

Buckwheat, wild

*Buffalobur

Burdock

Buttercup, tall

*Bracken

Carrot, wild

Catchfly, nightflowering

Cockle, white

*Cocklebur, common

Daisy, oxeye

Dock, curly

Flixweed

Foxtail, giant

*Gumweed, curlycup

Hawksbeard, narrowleaf

Hawksbeard, smooth

Hawksweed, orange

Jimsonweed

Knapweed, Russion

Knapweed, spotted

Kochia

Lambsquarters, common

Mallow, venice

*Marshelder

*Milkweed, common

*Muhly, wirestem

Mustard, wild

Nightshade, black

Nutsedge, yellow (nutgrass)

Oat, wild

Panicum, fall

Panicum, wild proso millet

Pigweed, redroot

Pigweed, prostrate

Quackgrass

Radish, wild

*Ragweed, common

*Ragweed, giant

*Sandbur, long spined

*Smartweed, Pennsylvania

Smartweed, (ladysthumb)

Sorghum-almum

*Sunflower, common (except cultivars)

Tansy

Thistle, Russian

Velvetleaf

Yellow rocket

Woolly cupgrass

*Wormwood, absinthe

*NATIVE SPECIES TO MINNESOTA

GLOSSARY

Alternate Located singly at each node; not opposite or whorled.

Axil Angle between an organ and its axis of attachment.

Basal Located at or near the base of a structure.

Bract A modified leaf structure that surrounds the flower on some plants.

Control Measures -

(1) Biological (1) The use of insects, pathogens, or other life forms to control weeds

over time.

(2) Mechanical (2) The use of cultivation, mowing, hand cutting, pulling, girdling, and

burning to control weeds from going to seed or growing.

(3) Grazing (3) The use of in most cases, sheep or goats, which will eat weeds to

keep from flowering and/or seeding.

(4) Chemical (4) The use of herbicides to control or eradicate weeds.

Lenticel A corky spot on the bark, providing passage for gas exchange.

Life Span -

(1) Annual(2) Biennial(3) Two growing seasons.

(3) Perennial (3) Greater than two growing seasons.

Node Points along the stem where leaves are borne; a joint of attachment

along a stem or inflorescence axis.

Palmate With three or more lobes, nerves, or leaflets arising from a common

point.

Rhizome An underground horizontal stem with nodes, scale-like leaves, and

internodes. Its usually involved in vegetative reproduction.

Rosette A basal, usually crowded, whorl of leaves.

Whorl A cluster of several branches, flowers, or leaves around the axis arising

from a common node.

To find out more information, please contact:

Pete Shutrop, County Agriculture Inspector (952) 496-8497

SCOTT COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS

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